

# St. Louis Army Engineer District



# Esprit

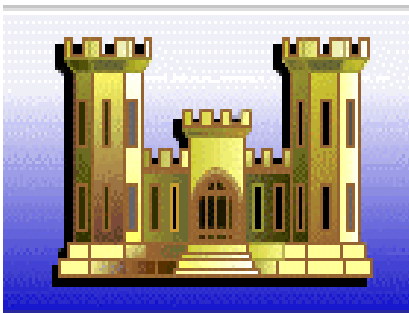


## Special Lakes Issue

June 2001

*Champion of Your Heartland's Water Resources*

Volume 41 No.5 [www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)



## Summertime Summertime



## Sum Sum Summertime

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# Commander's Perspective



**COL. Michael R. Morrow**

**“Water plays a major role in how we live ...work...[and] how we play.”**

I was out and about the other day, cruising down I-57 on my way back to St. Louis. As I passed by Rend Lake, that magnificent Corps project on the Big Muddy River, I noticed a couple of fishermen in their jonboats battling some white caps created by the strong winds that were so prevalent that day. A little farther up I-57, I came upon a massive billboard, which read:

“Lake Shelbyville – Calm, Clean Water.”

Yo, Phil and Andrea, do I have a lake war on my hands here?

All kidding aside, our lake projects play a pivotal role in our efforts to serve the people of this great nation. The 2.3 million acre-feet of combined flood storage capacity at the District’s five lake projects are an integral component of our flood damage reduction system. While the original and primary designated purpose of the lake projects is flood control, these lakes offer other benefits in the form of improved water quality, water supply, and in the case of Mark Twain Lake, hydropower generation.

Water plays a major role in how we live and how we work. It also plays a major role in how we play. For this very important reason, the Corps and its lake projects are key players in providing outdoor recreation to the people of the heartland. Indeed, this role will become more prominent and visible, particularly here in the St. Louis District, as an expected influx of tourists to the area mounts with the much-anticipated bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As more and more tourists flock to the area to mark the anniversary of the expedition that opened the West to settlement, we can expect an increase in the number of visitors to our campgrounds, beaches and visitors’ centers.

Many of these tourists will be first-time visitors to Corps projects. Our lake managers, park rangers, and volunteers may be the only “face” of the Corps that these visitors ever encounter. This important public relations opportunity is in the very competent and professional hands of our lake project personnel. With this in mind, I encourage all of you to take advantage of the many amenities that the District’s lakes have to offer and to meet the rangers and volunteers that help to put a friendly face on the Corps of Engineers.



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
St. Louis District

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# The Corps—Leaders in Outdoor Recreation

By Rogers Hayes, District Staff Park Ranger

For as far back as most of us remember—and that's a pretty long time for some of us—we've been hearing that the Corps of Engineers is our nation's second-largest provider of outdoor recreation, second only to the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. This may sound strange to some who hear it for the first time. In fact, it sounds strange to some who have been hearing it for years. The Army? Major provider of recreation?

A glance at a few of the following tidbits will convince most people that the Army Corps of Engineers does play a major role in recreation.

— The Corps manages nearly 12 million acres of land and water, an area equivalent to almost 11 million football fields and slightly smaller than the State of West Virginia. We manage more land than the National Park Service.

— The Corps, one of six federal agencies with recreation missions, hosts 30 percent of total visits to federal recreation areas on less than 2 percent of federally-owned lands.

— The Corps provides hiking, fishing, camping, boating, hunting, sightseeing, picnicking, and many other recreational opportunities at 457 lakes or rivers spread across 43 states.

—Eighty percent of Corps recreation areas are within 50 miles of a large city.

Corps projects have:

- 56,000 miles of shoreline—greater than the total coastal shoreline of the lower 48 states.
- Over 4,000 recreation areas.
- Over 2,000 miles of trails.
- 3,500 boat ramps.
- 93,000 campsites—enough for everyone in Wichita, Kansas to go camping at the same time.
- Over 200,000 fishing tournaments per year.

The Corps is a major player in outdoor recreation, and our role is about to become, if not more prominent, more visible. According to recent reports, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service has been under scrutiny from outside sources and as a result are expected to announce a downward adjustment of their visitation counts, reportedly by as much as 40 percent. That will place our agency at the top of the national outdoor recreation pyramid, provided that we can substantiate the visitation data reflected on paper—and I think we can.

Dating from the implementation of the Jadwin Plan, a component of the Flood Control Act of 1828, and resulting from the flood of 1927 on the lower Mississippi River, the Corps has been poised to play a major role in recreation. Three significant statistics combine to emphasize this point in a dramatic way:

- 80 % of federal land in the 48 contiguous states is located in and west of the Rocky Mountains
- 80 % of the population of the 48 contiguous states lives east of the Rocky Mountains—where 20% of the federal land is located.
- 80 % of the Corps's operational projects are also east of the Rocky Mountains—where 80 % of the people are.

As demonstrated above, when 80 percent of the people of the lower 48 states go looking for recreation opportunities on federal land, they find the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It's no wonder that we play with the big boys when it comes to outdoor recreation.

Recreation is only one role played by our multi-purpose projects, and one of the lowest totems on the federal mission pole. But it's also one that the public has taken to like a duck on a June Bug. It's not going anywhere; recreation is here to stay.



# Wappapello Lake

## “Come Join Us”

Nestled in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Wappapello Lake offers activities for all walks of life and welcomes you to over 44,000 acres of public lands and water. Since the dam was completed in 1941, Wappapello Lake has been providing flood damage reduction to individuals within the St. Francis River watershed. Recreation, authorized in 1944, is the major focal point for individuals visiting from around the world. Whether you enjoy hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking or just relaxing for the day, Wappapello Lake has the attractions that appeal to you. The diversity of activities at Wappapello Lake is nearly endless. Many local organizations such as the Wappapello Lions Club, Crowley’s Ridge Black Powder Club, United Native American People, SEMO Regional Water Safety Council and the Wayne County Historical Society partner with Wappapello Lake to present several annual family oriented special events. These events include the Old Greenville Black Powder Rendezvous, Intertribal Living Indian Village, Disabled Persons Fishing Day, Annual Drag Boat Races, Waterfest, Old Greenville Days and the Festival of Lights Christmas Auto Tour.

While visiting, stop by the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center, located at the end of the dam. Pick up area information and view the interpretive displays in the exhibit room. Natural and cultural resources are depicted through trails and various programs, which highlight the beauty found in Southeast Missouri. Spend a day or two hiking or horseback riding along the Ozark Trail. Enjoy the serenity of the Pine Ridge, Johnson Tract or Lost Creek trails or take a stroll back in time with the “Memory Lane” historic walk, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located within the Greenville Recreation Area.



In addition to the camping, sand swimming beaches and day use activities available at Wappapello Lake, numerous concessionaires provide amenities visitors need in order to make their stay enjoyable. Cabins, boat rentals, swimming and fine dining await those wishing to enhance their recreational experience.

So what’s been happening at Wappapello Lake, you ask. Well let us begin by telling you that it’s been a very busy year already and the recreation season is just getting started.



**Redman East Campground**

This past off-season at Wappapello Lake has been very exciting, with major improvements made for our users. The Redman Creek Campground upgraded 30 campsites to full service, which included the installation of water and sewer hook-up and 50 amp electrical service to each of these sites. The sites are open and utilization is astounding. An additional 20 campsites in the upper portion of the Peoples Creek Campground are currently being upgraded to full service and will be completed this year.





**Greenville Head Start  
Greenville Recreation Area**

The Greenville Recreation Area has a surprise this year for children visiting the area. A newly completed playground, featuring more than 20 play events is open and ready for use. The playground has a frontier fort theme to complement this National Historic Site. The play system includes swings, tunnel slides, a curly climber and bridge that have already provided a challenging new experience for many young imaginations.

Visitors will be better able to access several recreation areas around Wappapello Lake, thanks to major road improvements and road raising projects,

the TEA-21 project and a challenge cost-share agreement with Wayne County. Currently BB highway is under construction and is scheduled to be completed in September. Work on D highway is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2001. Several county roads, including those servicing the Pisos Point, Lost Creek and Holliday Landing Recreation Areas, are scheduled to be upgraded through ditching, grading and resurfacing

While you enjoy your stay, please remember to think safety first. Ranger Willie B. Safe and the safety team invite you to play it safe, explore the nearly endless array of opportunities and "Come Join Us" at Wappapello Lake. As a reminder, the month of July has been proclaimed as Ranger Willie B. Safe Safety Month.



**Upcoming Events:** Wappapello Lake will host a National Trails Day Event on June 2, 2001, which will involve local groups and organizations providing volunteer trail maintenance. Ranger Willie's Wet and Wild Waterfest 2001 will be held June 30 and

July 1 at the Redman Creek Beach and Recreation Area from noon to 5 p.m. each day.

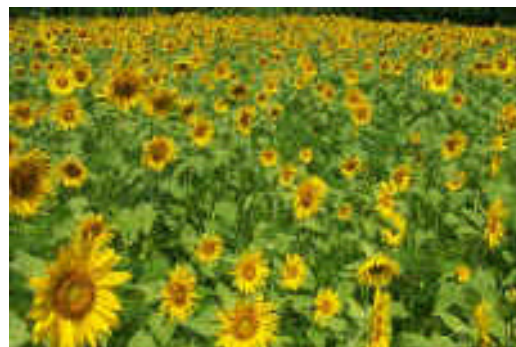
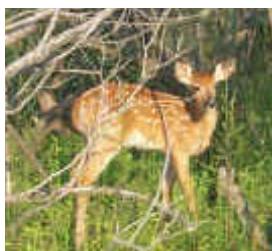
Several water related activities including water brigade, tug-of-war, water wheel of fortune, puppet shows, water basketball, watermelon eating contest, sand castle/sculpture building contest, and much more are scheduled. The user fee is waived at the beach on these days; therefore, admission is free to the public. Prizes are awarded to participants.



**Rangers teach water safety**



**Watchable Wildlife**



**Supplemental food plots:** To help offset man's destruction of habitat and available food sources, Wappapello Lake plants hundreds of acres in grain crops, such as corn, peas, sunflowers, milo and wheat.

# Clarence Cannon Dam & Mark Twain Lake

Clarence Cannon Dam rises formidably out of the rich, rolling farmland of Ralls County and spans the Salt River Valley 63 miles upstream from its confluence with the Mississippi River north of Louisiana, Missouri. It provides flood control, hydroelectric power, drinking water, navigation, fish and wildlife conservation and a multitude of recreational opportunities.

The concept of building a dam on the Salt River originated around 1831 as a means of maintaining navigation. Over the next century the idea resurfaced as a flood control method every time a major flood hit the region. Actual consideration began in the 1930s as a proposal to control flooding in the Mississippi River Basin. Three decades and much controversy later the multipurpose Joanna Dam and Reservoir was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1962. The Joanna Project was later renamed to honor supporter Congressman Clarence Cannon and literary genius Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). Construction was completed in 1983 and by spring of 1984 Mark Twain Lake was at normal pool. The project attracts up to two million visitors each year, provides a multitude of recreational opportunities, and can supply 4.5 million gallons of drinking water daily to 13 communities in Northeast Missouri.

The Clarence Cannon Dam Powerhouse contains two turbine generator units capable of producing 58,000 kilowatts of hydroelectric power. Generation is operated remotely from the Truman Dam Control Room in the Kansas City District. The local Northeast Power Cooperation operates the switchyard and the Southwestern Power Administration markets the electricity for the federal government.

In addition to providing hydroelectric power, recreation, water supplies, and fish and wildlife conservation, the dam and lake have held up to their expectations when it comes to flood control. Just during 1995, Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake prevented more than one billion dollars of flood damage in the Salt River Valley and Mississippi River Basin.

Clarence Cannon Dam Powerhouse equipment and processes involved in hydroelectric energy provide an ideal location to learn about energy and energy conservation. An interactive exhibit area inside the powerhouse educates visitors about hydroelectric power, home energy use and other benefits this multipurpose project provides for the region. The Powerhouse Exhibit area is a favorite stop for thousands of school kids who come to gain information for school projects and discover that learning can be fun.

The M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center is a great place to begin a visit to the lake area. Visitors can pick up maps, ask questions or simply enjoy the spectacular view of the lake from the overlook.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful around the lake. Boating, fishing, camping, swimming, hiking and sightseeing are very popular. A couple of recent additions are the Mark Twain Lake Shooting Range

for those interested in a safe practice range and extensions to the Joanna Multi-Purpose Trail which means up to 25 miles across forests and prairies and is popular with equestrians.

Next time you are in northeast Missouri, drive across Clarence Cannon Dam and see what wonderful things we have to offer.





## Mark Twain Lake Area Students Shock the Competition

Area students attending the Environmental Education Day at Mark Twain Lake participated in the “Design A Turbine” Contest. The contest, sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, promotes engineering skills and environmental awareness in students. With contest guidelines and basic materials, students combine their creativity and ingenuity to create a working hydro-powered turbine. Basic materials may include plastic spoons, coffee cans, wood, wire, mini motor, pulleys, or erector sets. Efficiency and teamwork is essential to a good design.



**Ranger Steve Wagner teaches the principles of hydropower with the HydroChallenge**

During the testing of their turbine, students are allowed one gallon of water with sixty seconds time to see how many volts of electricity they can produce. Using computer analysis the turbine generating the greatest amount of electricity is the winner.

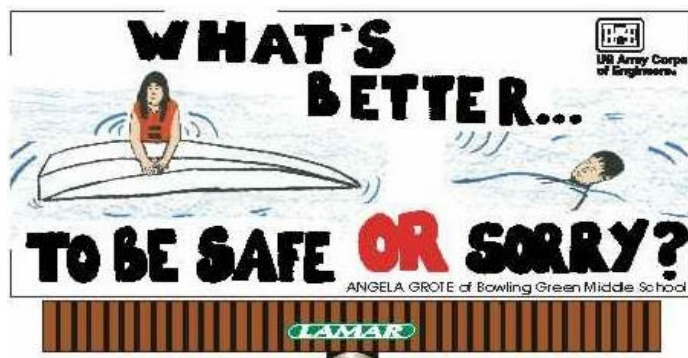


**Ranger Chris Coe and winners**

This year, Brandi Beckman, Corey Harlow, Emily Morgan, and Jordan Smith, from the Madison C-3 School in Madison, Missouri applied physics principles and creative design to build the winning turbine. Their winning turbine will be on display inside the Clarence Cannon Dam Powerhouse Exhibit Area during the 2001 recreation season.

## Mark Twain Lake Water Safety Billboard Contest

The Mark Twain Lake Project Office is proud to announce the winners of the year 2001 Water Safety Poster Contest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with Lamar Advertising, invited seventh and eighth-grade students from local schools to participate in the annual Contest. The winning poster was made into billboards that include the artist's name and school. The billboards are currently on display along major highways in the Mark Twain Lake Area. The theme for this year's contest was “Safe Passage.” Students learned important boating and water safety tips.



First place was awarded to Angela Grote of the Bowling Green Middle School in Bowling Green, Missouri. Second place went to Austin Dowell of the Bowling Green Middle School, and third place to Ashley Platt of the Highland Middle School in Canton, Missouri.



**Bass anglers have good odds of catching bass weighing over 7 pounds. You can expect to catch one bass over 15" long for every two or three sub-legal fish. That sounds very good indeed!**



**Missouri Mule Days (29-30 Sep)** Watch prize winning mules compete and learn the history of the Missouri Mule



## Rend Lake: Southern Illinois' Best Kept Secret

If it's recreational fun you're looking for, you've come to the right spot. Rend Lake offers an irresistible invitation to head outdoors and discover new experiences. From boating and fishing to hiking and biking or just plain kickin' back and relaxing, your recreational adventures start the moment you arrive in Southern Illinois.

Choose the speed you want to play and there will be more than you can do in a day. For those who have a need for speed, there is boating, skiing, wind surfing, tubing, and many other opportunities to get your blood pumping. If you want an easier pace or need a short rest after more active endeavors, there is golfing, horseback riding, biking, hiking, shooting sports, wildlife observation, exploring a quiet cove on a paddle boat or just lazing around in a quiet out-of-the-way spot. With so many activities, you may find it hard to decide what to do first.

Throughout the summer, Rend Lake offers a variety of events sure to entertain, educate, enlighten, and amaze you. Saturday events at the Rend Lake Visitor Center include the Environmental Science Series and the Sunset Series of Programs. These programs, held each Saturday from Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend feature wholesome family entertainment and education all wrapped up in one. Get a program schedule from our web site at [www.mvs.usace.army.mil/rend](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/rend). These programs feature subjects such as bees, reptiles, fish, birds of prey and a day filled with living history demonstrations.



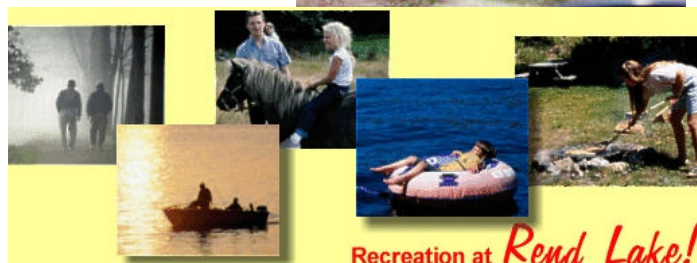
### Discover the history of Rend Lake

South Sandusky Beach will be the site of the **Rend Lake Beach Blast**. This water safety carnival proves to be loads of fun with a safety message. Kids of all ages will learn how to be safe around the water with this line-up of activities. The Beach Blast will be 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, 10 June 2001. Bring your pail for some additional fun as you enter the sand castle building contest.

The **Taste of Freedom** will celebrate the nation's birthday with two nights of fireworks, food galore, and loads of entertainment for the entire family. The 5-minute fireworks show on Saturday, 30 June, will give you a "taste" of the celebration planned for the following evening. Sunday, 1 July, will end with a BANG! as Southern Illinois' finest pyrotechnics display fills the night sky with color and sparkle.

The fun doesn't end at the shoreline. Whether you are looking for fine dining, elegant wine tasting, or just a relaxing day on the golf course, Rend Lake and surrounding communities will satisfy your interests, transport you back in time, help you to understand your surroundings, gain a greater appreciation for the arts, and provide some life-long family memories. Visitors can swim in the morning and visit an art museum in the afternoon and not travel more than 5 miles. The Southern Illinois Artisans Shop makes its home at Rend Lake, and is one of only three in the state, the others are in Springfield and downtown Chicago, that houses an art museum and a shop that showcases work of approximately 90 of the 900 Illinois artisans.

**Where to Stay:** Ah, the great outdoors! After a full day, there's no better way to relax than in the warm glow of a waning fire under a starlit sky. Choose one of the hundreds of campsites at Rend Lake to set up camp and make "s'mores" and memories.



Recreation at **Rend Lake!**



Rend Lake offers sites for the family with a tent or a camper that needs electric, water, and sewer hook-ups. If camping isn't your style, Rend Lake has two picturesque resorts that have all the amenities you need to make your stay an experience that you will talk about for years and one that you will remember for a lifetime.

Rend Lake is only two hours from St. Louis. Travel east on Interstate 64 to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, then take I-57 South and follow the signs. For more information, check the Rend Lake page of the St. Louis District Web site or e-mail us at [RendInfo@mvs02.usace.army.mil](mailto:RendInfo@mvs02.usace.army.mil).

### **Team Effort Makes the Difference on Earth Day:**



**Shelbyville Ranger Al Lookofsky presents his Earth Day version of Survivor—the Real Thing**

Several worn out rangers, 6 bleachers, 10 tents, 45 tables, 60 chairs, 900 straw bales, 35 picnic tables, 78 presenters and 28 different topics, plus 4,056 students K-8 from 37 different schools from 8 different counties equals the annual Rend Lake Earth Day Celebration. Shortly after 9:00 a.m., a long string of school busses began to arrive. The presenters calmly waited for the first stampede of exuberant young students to come piling into their stations. Each of the 193 classes was scheduled to attend five different half-hour presentations at assigned stations on the visitor center grounds. Students were treated to presentations on such varied topics as dinosaurs, birds of prey, mosquitoes, American Indian technologies, wetlands, environmental crafts, and archeology.

How did Rend Lake handle such a huge event? We didn't do it alone. This year's Earth Day

Celebration had the largest Corps of Engineers team ever assembled for this event. Twenty-eight dedicated people sacrificed much to make sure everything was done and in place prior to the arrival. Rend Lake supplied 14 presenters. Lake Shelbyville sent Rangers Maria Shafer, Larry Gutzler, Leah Morrow, and Al Lookofsky, for both days. Wappapello Lake Park Ranger Keith Kelley, scheduled for one day of presentation, rearranged his schedule at the last minute when the scheduled presenter fell ill, and returned for a second day.



**Rob Gramke teaches the wonders of wetlands**

#### **We are all educators**

Through the efforts of Lattissua Tyler and the support of management officials, we were also able to use the District Speakers Bureau to obtain additional presenters. Regulatory's Rob Gramke and Craig Littiken gave an excellent program about wetlands on both days. Fresh from Real Life Science the day before, Dawn Smith from the Applied River Engineering Center packed up her stream table and headed to Rend Lake for two more days of educating. Archeologists Eugene and Kristin Marino gave a presentation on archeology and exhibited many artifacts. Special thanks to Chuck Camillo from our Public Affairs Office for his assistance in registration, taking pictures, speaking to the press, and providing any assistance needed throughout both days of the event.

Of the 78 presenters, 24 were Corps employees, whose presentations account for 3,558 interpretive contacts, approximately 18% of the total 19,956 meaningful interpretive contacts made during the two-day celebration. The Corps team provided 92.5 hours of instruction in two days.

Rend Lake would like to express its gratitude for all the people who worked so hard to make the Rend Lake Earth Day 2001 Celebration such a glowing success. Because of your dedication and support, more than 4,000 students have a greater knowledge and appreciation of the world around them.



## You've Tried the Rest Now Try the Best

Leanne Cruitt, Park Ranger



**Lake Shelbyville** – you've heard of it and now you're reading about it – so isn't it time to venture out to the great outdoors and experience it? Situated conveniently in central Illinois, midway between Chicago and St. Louis, Lake Shelbyville rises up like an oasis of sparkling blue water and lush green woodlands in the middle of the Midwest prairie.

While Lake Shelbyville with its 11,100 acres of water, is the smallest of the St. Louis District Lakes, it is, in our opinion, by far the most scenic. While most lakes in central and northern Illinois are large, open bodies of water, Lake Shelbyville is a long, narrow lake meandering through the Il-

linois prairie. With 172 miles of shoreline, there are hundreds of small, secluded coves for a quiet fishing trip or the perfect place to moor your boat for a romantic sunset dinner or for the entire evening.

The Lake Shelbyville Project was designed, constructed and is maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps personnel at Lake Shelbyville are highly skilled and caring professionals who can't wait to help you have an enjoyable visit. From making picnic shelter reservations to unstopping a toilet in the campgrounds,



**Lake Shelbyville Dam**  
the staff at Lake Shelbyville does it all!

With six federal campgrounds and two state parks to choose from you will be sure to find the perfect camping spot. Lake Shelbyville has over 800 camping sites, some with full hookups with sewer, water, and electricity, some are just electric and some are primitive – just a grassy area with a fire ring - perfect for tent camping.

If camping outdoors is not your style you can always spend the night at the luxurious Eagle Creek Resort. After a day of boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, or just site seeing, you can enjoy fine dining at the Rosewood, one of three dining areas at Eagle Creek Resort. Come on a Friday evening and experience the best seafood buffet in the Midwest. Sit on the balcony overlooking the lake with a plate full of crab legs, oysters, and steamed shrimp; now close your eyes and you will swear you were in the Florida Keys with the gulf breeze gently cooling your sun drenched skin.

If you're interested in history, Lake Shelbyville is the place to be. Look up friendly park ranger Al Lookofsky who will fascinate you with his tales of the tribes of native Americans who once lived in this area – watch as he flint knaps arrow heads which look so authentic we're betting you will be not be able to tell the difference!



**Camp Camfield**



Maybe Samuel Clemons never visited this area like he did Mark Twain Lake, but Abraham Lincoln, William Jennings Bryan, and Booker T. Washington did. The lake's history buff, ranger Leanne Cruitt can tell you all about them at an informational living history tour at Lithia Springs Chautauqua area located within the lake's project boundaries. Lithia Springs was once a well-known and well-visited summer resort in the late 1800s. Far from the busy campgrounds and crowded beaches, today, the Lithia Springs valley is a quiet, secluded area canopied under lush green oaks and sycamores. Black-eyed Susans, Sweet Peas, and Queen Anne's Lace frame the area of the underground springs which still flow today. You'll definitely want to visit this place - bring a picnic lunch and maybe take a drink from the springs, which were said to be "equal to any mineral water in the world for good health and the cure of ills".



And what about fishing, you ask? Well, Lake Shelbyville was named by Bass Masters Magazine as the Best Bass Lake in Illinois and over 50 fishing tournaments are held at the lake each year. One of the lake's most experienced fishing guides has said that the fishing this year is the best its been in 25 years and that the crappie limit is very easily achieved in just a few hours. Need we say more????



Today the Thomas Lincoln Farm comes to life through our historic interpreters. Come and see what life was like in 1845 for the Lincoln family on their farm in Illinois. The house and surrounding farm is still being used as they were then and our interpreters portray the family members and neighbors that lived in the area.

Add the Watchable Wildlife Areas to your list of places to visit at Lake Shelbyville. One of the areas, the Okaw Wetlands includes a hiking trail. The trail, which winds along a bluff overlooking the lake, leads you to a 100-acre wetlands and includes two photography stands and a wetlands/waterfowl-viewing stand. The Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper and the Canada Goose are just a few of the species you will encounter.

This is just a sample of the staggering amount of recreational opportunities awaiting you at beautiful Lake Shelbyville – **now** are you ready to try to best? Are you here yet?

### **July 21 & 22 - Muskets and Drums 2001**

The Dam West Recreation Area will come alive with the sights and sounds of a Revolutionary War Reenactment. See the upstart Colonists fight against British rule in a reenactment of the War for Independence.



# Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project

**Carlyle Lake** is located in south central Illinois about 50 miles east of St. Louis, Mo. The project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and modified in 1958. Construction began in 1958 and the multi-purpose lake opened in 1967. The lake is 15 miles long and 3 ½ miles wide and has about 11,000 acres of public land.

The purpose is to provide flood control, environmental stewardship, recreation, water supply, water quality and navigation downstream.

Carlyle Lake is the largest manmade lake in Illinois, with 26,000 acres of water and 83 miles of shoreline. The many different recreational opportunities include camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, golfing, sightseeing, hiking, bicycling, hunting, or just spending a leisurely day.

Carlyle Lake is one of the top 10 sailing lakes in the Midwest. Since the lake is in a prairie setting, with the combination of wide-open water, low hills and strong winds, it makes for a sailor's paradise. It is also one of the best fishing lakes in the state. Carlyle Lake has 17 boat launching areas providing access to the lake as well as the Kaskaskia River, four marinas with docking slips, more than 3,200 acres managed for waterfowl, more than 15,000 acres open for waterfowl hunting, four large beaches, 10 large picnic areas with more than 1,000 grills and tables plus group shelters, 720 campsites and several nature trails.



Just one-quarter mile below the dam, the General Dean Suspension Bridge is the only one of its kind in Illinois and is on the National Register.

The **Visitor Center**, located at the Dam West Recreation Area, has exhibits, literature, and a video show, to help plan your stay. The Visitor Center is open on weekends from March 31 – May 27 and daily on Saturday/Sunday from May 28 – September 3 daily.

On Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> the **fireworks spectacular** will take place. A fun-filled day is planned with live bands performing throughout the day and a cardboard boat regatta. The fireworks spectacular will start around dusk. The event is sponsored by the Carlyle Lake Fireworks committee in conjunction with the Carlyle Lake Chamber of

Commerce and the Carlyle Optimist Club.

The annual **Kaskaskia River Duck Race** will be held Saturday, 14 July to benefit The Healthcare Foundation. Typically, 10,000 to 14,000 rubber ducks are adopted and dropped off the dam into the Kaskaskia River. The ducks race to the finish line and are matched with their benefactors for major prizes. This year's festivities will include music and the Carlyle Rotary Club Fishing Derby.



**Programs:** Park Rangers present interpretive programs throughout the summer months. All are free and fun for everyone. Campground evening programs, water safety presentations, tours of the dam, and guided nature walks are some of the regularly scheduled activities.



**Dam tours** are available from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day Weekend. Tour groups may meet on top of the dam on Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Other arrangements may be made by calling the project office.

The Carlyle Lake Project has four marinas, which are operated by lease agreements with the Corps of Engineers. The **West Access Marina** is located at the southeast end of Carlyle Lake in the Dam West Recreation Area.

Ric Golding, Harbor Master, hosts one-hour tours to introduce visitors to the wonders of Carlyle Lake ordinarily only seen from the shore. The **Boulder Access Marina** is located

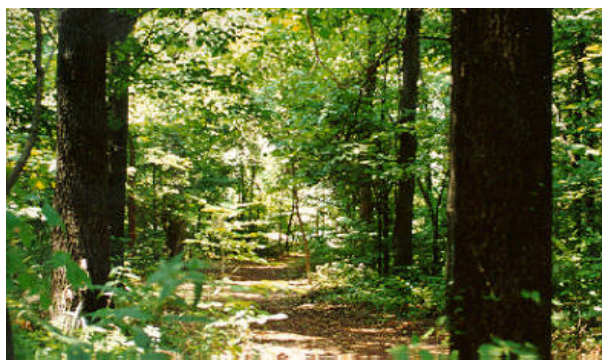
on the eastern shore of Carlyle Lake near Boulder. The facility consists of both wet and dry storage for boats, a marine store, lounge, restrooms, showers, and a picnic area. The **Carlyle Sailing Association (CSA)** is a non-for-profit sailing club established in 1971 to provide a low cost family sailing and sailboat racing facility. Located in the Eldon Hazlet State Park, it includes a harbor protected by breakwaters, sandy beach areas for launching catamarans, a picnic pavilion, restrooms, clubhouse, and a home for the resident harbormaster. The CSA has hosted national sailing competitions nearly every year of its existence and was the venue for the sailing competition in the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival. It has the reputation in the sailing community of being one of the very best inland lake facilities in the country and is noted for its organization and race management expertise.

**Overnight accommodations:** Whether a rustic cabin on the lake or a luxury hotel with all the amenities is your pleasure, you can find a place to stay in comfort in and around Carlyle Lake.

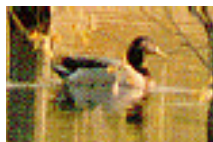
**Golf** is a major attraction in the Carlyle Lake area and should be even better with more overnight accommodations available this season. Governor's Run, with an 18-hole course as well as an 18-hole par-three lighted course, account for one of the larger courses. Carlyle Lake Golf Club, just a mile south of Carlyle, and Twin Oaks, on Rt. 127 north of Carlyle are well-groomed nine-hole courses.

**Fisherman's Cove Adventure Park** is north of Carlyle Lake on Rt. 127. This recreation area has 18 holes of adventure golf for the young; six batting cages for all levels expertise; a concrete go-kart track; an indoor game room; a trampoline/basketball hoop; a snack shop; indoor and outdoor dining; and a private party room.

The **Carlyle Lake Wildlife Management Area** encompasses 9,486 acres, which is composed of about 5,800 acres of open water and wetlands, 2,000 acres of woodlands, 1,500 acres of cropland and food plots, and 200 acres of grassland. The primary purpose of the site is the enhancement and protection of habitat to maximize wildlife conservation and provide compatible recreational uses. Although the site is well known as a major state site for waterfowl management (more than 6,000,000 duck-use days and 1,000,000 goose days a year. One duck or goose use day means a bird was on site for at least a portion of one day.), the food plot and wetland management projects also provides habitat for many mammals, shorebird and songbird species.



**Trails abound in and around Carlyle Lake. Many trails are barrier-free.**



**Watchable wildlife**



## Kaskaskia Lock & Dam

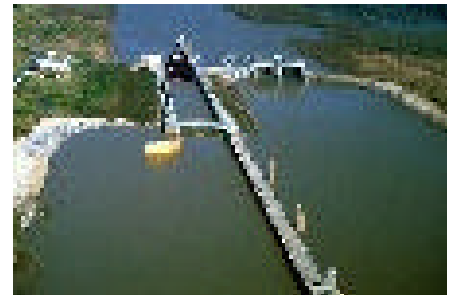
On 18 June 2000 the Kaskaskia Navigation Project was combined with the Carlyle Lake Project now called the Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project.

The Kaskaskia Navigation Project was authorized for the single purpose of commercial navigation in October 1962. In June 1966, construction began of the 225 x nine-foot navigation channel from the mouth of the Kaskaskia River 36 miles upstream to Fayetteville. In 1996, Congress added fish and wildlife and habitat restoration purposes to the project. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources manages Kaskaskia River State and Fish and Wildlife Area which is one of the largest state-owned and managed sites in Illinois.



The project is located less than one hour from St. Louis, MO and is comprised of more than 20,000 acres of lands and water. Even though the surface water does not look like a typical lake or recreation project, it receives comparable recreation usage with more than 5000 recreational crafts locking through in 1999.

The project includes four major public boat ramps and a public marina at New Athens with 54 boat slips. An estimated 20,000 boats use the marina ramp each year. Recreation was added as a project purpose in 2000.



The Kaskaskia Watershed includes Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake and the Kaskaskia Navigation Project, and is one of thirteen lakes selected in 2001 as a pilot project of the Federal Lake Demonstration Laboratory.

Approximately 100 species of fish are known to inhabit the Kaskaskia River. Other natural resources of the area include coal, petroleum, gas, limestone, sand, gravel, and clay.

The river was initially used for transporting coal and averaged 50 million tons equaling \$1.75 billion. Over \$13 million dollars of new barge facilities have been completed. In 2002 the Kaskaskia Regional Port District will pursue development of an export grain elevator at Fayetteville,

which will handle 20-25 million bushels of agriculture products for seven Farm Service Cooperatives in a five county area. The City of Evansville has proposed a major riverfront recreational development, which will include a marina, park, boat storage and restaurant. At the present time more than 12,000 boats use the ramp yearly.

The Kaskaskia Lock and Dam has a Visitor Center with literature and information available for the area. Many tours of the facility are given throughout the year and are the focus for field trips of local schools.





## Prescribed Burning: A Wildlife Management Tool that is Heating Up <sup>15</sup>

By Ray Zoanetti, Rend Lake Natural Resource Specialist

Late winter and early spring is the time of year that natural resource management rangers at Rend Lake gear up to manage wildlife habitat and vegetation through the use of fire. Prescribed burning, also known as controlled burning, is used by resource managers to retard plant succession, eliminate woody encroachment, and release soil nutrients so they may become available to plants. It is also used to reduce fuel loads in some areas to reduce the risk and damage from wild fires. Most of the controlled burns at Rend Lake are on old fields and prairie grasses to manage habitat and some are under pine plantations and hardwood forests to reduce fuel loads in the campgrounds. Planning for controlled burns starts during the winter when lake personnel identify areas that would benefit from this treatment technique. A detailed fire plan is then written for each area and signed by the burn boss and the operations managers. This plan includes required weather and atmospheric conditions, especially humidity and wind direction, lists of crew leaders and fire crews needed and a list of local agencies to notify before the burn. Next fire lines are disked and seeded so that there is green vegetation surrounding the fire area. The fire lines are usually seeded to winter wheat, clover and/or lespedeza.

Burn season is often “iffy”. Not every day is a good burn day. The right weather conditions and right number of available personnel must be present. Most burns do not start until later in the morning or afternoon, when the temperature has risen and the humidity decreased. After all the equipment, trucks, torches, fuel, shovels, flappers, radios, fire pumps and 6-wheelers are assembled at the burn site, all personnel are checked to make sure they have proper personal protective safety gear on, including Nomex pants, Nomex fire shirts, eye protection, fire proof gloves and safety boots. The burn boss and crew leaders walk the fire line to make sure everything safe. Rangers, who have been monitoring the weather conditions all morning, then use a field kit to determine weather conditions at the site. If conditions are not right, the burn boss will delay or call off the burn for the day. If conditions are right, a “tail-gate” safety briefing is held so that all personnel know what the plan is, in which direction the back, flank and head fires will be lit, any particular dangers on this site and where the escape routes are.

After the signal is given to proceed, no one leaves the burn site until the fire is declared out and every hot spot is “mopped up”. Prescribed burning is a proven and effective way to control vegetation and increase the health of the plant community and is more cost effective than mechanical and chemical techniques. Fire has always been an integral part of most ecosystems and the staff at Rend Lake uses it not only to their benefit, but also to the benefit of the public and to the natural environment.

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### Garren Wins Award of Merit

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**Rachel Garren receives Award of Merit presented by Kathy Meadows**

Rachel Garren, Park Ranger, CO-T, received a 2001 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit at a special National Water Safety Congress Golden Anniversary Awards Luncheon aboard the General Jackson Riverboat in Nashville, Tennessee on April 9. The luncheon was held in conjunction with the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit, a combined effort of the National

(cont'd on next page)

# Employee of the Month



**Dave Berti**, Assistant Operations Manager at Mark Twain Lake and Clarence Cannon Powerplant, has been selected as the April 2001 Employee of the Month. Acting on his own initiative and with considerable personal effort, Dave exercised his innovation to pursue a non-routine avenue to obtain funding for three major powerplant maintenance items:

- Painting and Rehabilitation of the Powerplant Intake Gates
- Replacement of Electronic Controls on the Bridge Crane
- Painting of the Gantry Crane and Re-Regulation Dam Stoplogs

When he realized that federal funding for these efforts was improbable, Dave nominated the items for consideration by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to a program of customer financing. His funding request package was chosen over those submitted by larger power plants due to the quality of his submission. Dave then crafted the necessary agency-to-agency agreement instrument to access the funding source and, working through difficulties, performed the necessary coordination and staffing at a higher authority level.

Accomplishment of this critical work is now well on the way. As a result of Dave Berti's efforts, this innovative financing source will take the pressure off a sorely taxed O & M appropriation. In addition to allowing the accomplishment of the badly needed work at the power plant, this action also frees up 1-2 million O&M dollars to be used at other operational projects to expedite repairs which otherwise could not have been accomplished.

Dave's unique and multi-faceted management skills are well known throughout the District. He has represented the Con-Ops Division and the District on numerous projects, including serving as Chief Negotiator for the Management Team in the successful partnering of management and labor on the recent International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 350 contract. This is but one more example of Dave's involvement in a project culminating in a success, and his work ethic serves as an example to all.

Dave is always quick to give credit to fellow team members. His reaction to his most recent success: "I like my job--especially when I get to do something where there is no obvious solution. I didn't do this alone. There are several people who helped figure out how to get this through the system once I found the obstacles, which I saw as a challenge. I love a challenge. "

(Garren—cont'd from page 15)

Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council. Rachel was one of ten Award of Merit recipients selected from across Region 6 which includes Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska.

The NWSC annually recognizes individuals and organizations for their contributions to water safety. Rachel has served on the National Water Safety Products Advisory Committee since its inception in 1994 and has inspired and helped create several water safety promotional products and tools such as the Water Safety Resource Guide. As Corps Interpretive Services Coordinator, Rachel has encouraged project offices and park rangers throughout the District to implement creative and effective water safety promotional techniques. She has also been instrumental in the St. Louis District's Corkey the Boat and the Ranger Willie B. Safe campaigns, assisting in the coordination and instruction of courses to ensure that Corps personnel are properly trained to operate Corkey. Rachel always strives to go the extra mile to help educate the public on water safety issues, and her dedication has influenced water safety on local, regional and national levels. She received a Commander's coin from Col Morrow in honor of this award at the recent Operations Manager Conference in Hannibal, Mo. Congratulations Rachel on this well-deserved recognition.